

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0517-DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER: NVN-083929 Geothermal Lease

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: ORMAT Dead Horse Wells Geothermal Drilling Permit 54-11

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T11N, R32E, Section 11 SWNE

APPLICANT: ORMAT Nevada Inc.

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

ORMAT Nevada Inc. proposes to drill a geothermal exploration well as part of their exploration of the geothermal resource potential of the Dead Horse Wells lease area in Gabbs Valley. Access to the site would be via overland travel. An area approximately 60 feet by 80 feet will be cleared for the drill rig. A sump measuring approximately 10 x 10 x 8 feet deep will be required. The site is similar to those nearby analyzed in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2010-0006-EA

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: **Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan**
Date Approved: May 9, 2001

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

Objective 1: Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Objective 2: Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

Objective 3: Geophysical exploration permits for oil, gas, or geothermal resources may be obtained prior to leasing of the lands. Mitigation of any resource conflicts identified in the review process will be stipulated in the permit.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Carson City District Office – ORMAT Nevada Inc., Environmental Assessment Gabbs Valley and Dead Horse Wells Geothermal Exploration Projects, DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2010-0006-EA

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is within the project area analyzed in the ORMAT Nevada Inc., Environmental Assessment Gabbs Valley and Dead Horse Wells Geothermal Exploration Projects, DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2010-0006-EA. The proposed area has been culturally cleared. Access to the site will be via overland travel.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at all since the completion of the 2010 EA. The range of alternatives in the 2010 EA is still appropriate since the environmental constraints of the geothermal exploration have not changed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed. The proposed site has been culturally cleared and will be accessed via overland travel. The proposed action will not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the 2010 EA analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from geothermal development would remain unchanged. The analyzed action is not different from the construction of the proposed well pad and well.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the geothermal resource exploration operations were analyzed in the 2010 EA which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document. The Yomba Shoshone Tribe will be notified via letter of the proposed construction of the well.


E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Jason Wright <i>JW</i>	Stillwater Archaeologist	BLM Carson City District

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

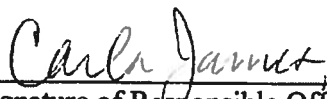
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

 6.14.11

Signature of Project Lead

 6/14/11

Signature of NEPA Coordinator

 Acting Stillwater Field Manager

Signature of Responsible Official

Date 6-15-11

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.